



# DATA & QUALITY ASSURANCE SECTION FACTSHEET

## Sobering Injury-Related Data on Christmas Week and New Year's Eve

The Christmas and New Year's holidays are ones of celebration and indulgence for many throughout the world, and Arizona is no exception. Along with the holiday festivities come a certain amount of injuries.

Motor Vehicle Traumatic (MVT) accidents reported through the Arizona State Trauma Registry (ASTR) for the 2008-2009 holiday season reveal some expected results and a few unexpected ones. The results are tracked using distribution rates, a percentage which illustrates on which day of the week 100% of MVT patients reach the Emergency Department (ED) or Hospital.

During Christmas week the MVT rate is actually highest on December 26th, with approximately 85% having an ED/Hospital arrival time between the hours of 7am and 11pm. The distribution of a positive alcohol test among those involved in the MVT dipped to a rate of 14 that day as opposed to a rate of 18 for an average Friday over the year.

The distribution of MVT accidents on Christmas Day is not particularly notable at 16, which is between what an average Friday or Saturday would be during the rest of the year. However, the rate of positive alcohol tests among those involved in MVT with an ED/Hospital arrival date on Christmas Day is 52, more than twice what would be seen on an average Friday, and almost twice what is seen on an average Saturday during the year.

The distribution rate of MVT accidents peaks on an ED/Hospital arrival date of New Year's Day with 20 in comparison to Christmas Day of 16 or an average Thursday of 13. When looking at the distribution rate of positive alcohol tests among those involved in MVT, New Year's Day tops the list at 56 compared with 52 on Christmas Day and 16 on an average Thursday. To compare, the highest average day for positive alcohol test among those involved in MVT is Saturday with a distribution rate of 30.

See Tables 1 and 2

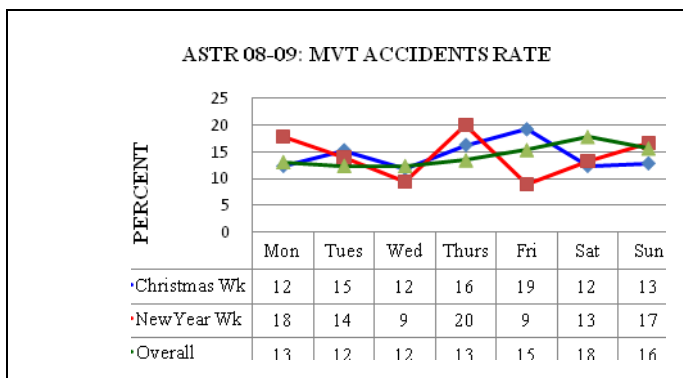


Table 1

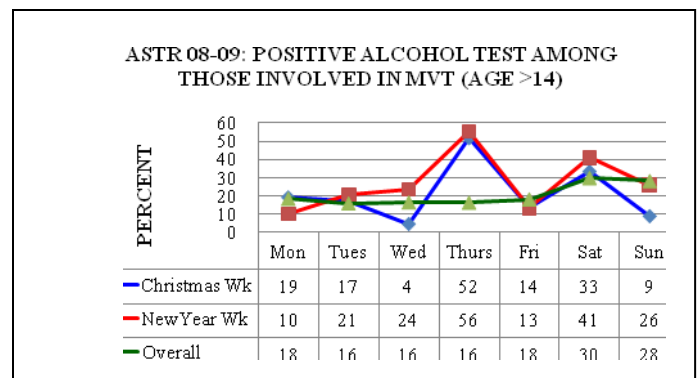
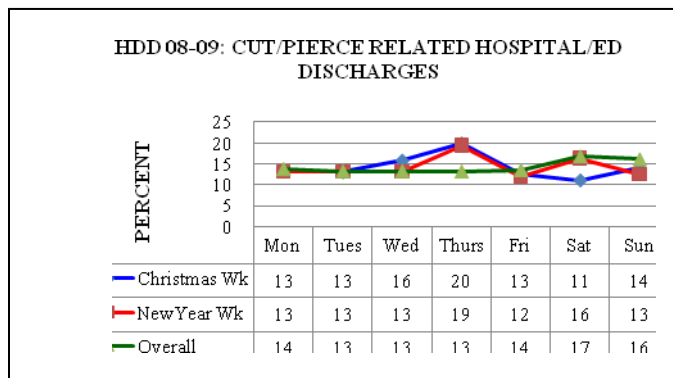


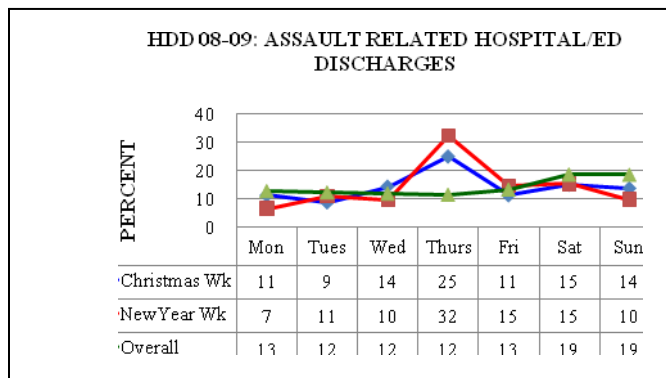
Table 2

Using the Hospital Discharge Database, Cut/Pierce injuries show a distribution rate of 20 on Christmas Day and a rate of 19 on New Year's Day, versus an average rate for a Thursday of 13. The highest distribution rate of cut/pierce injuries on an average day during the year is Saturday with 17. See Table 3

Assaults (Unarmed or blunt/thrown object) are also higher than normal on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, showing a distribution rate of 25 on Christmas Day and 32 on New Year's Day, versus 12 for an average Thursday. The highest distribution rate of these assaults for an average day during the year is Saturday and Sunday, both with a rate of 19. See Table 4



**Table 3**



**Table 4**

**Additional Factsheet Topics:** <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/FactSheets.htm>

Data Sources: Arizona State Trauma Registry, 2008-2009  
Hospital Discharge Database, 2008-2009  
Bureau of EMS and Trauma System, Data and Quality Assurance Section

